

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA-E
STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON CLOSING TO POT AND LONGLINE GEAR
PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENING TO POT AND LONGLINE GEAR
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-08-13**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E state-waters Pacific cod season will close to fishing with pot and longline gear effective 12:00 noon September 1, 2013. A parallel season will open to pot and longline gear at 12:00 noon September 1, 2013. This season is coordinated with the federal "B" season and gear sector allocations for Pacific cod in the Central Gulf of Alaska Regulatory Area (CGOA), and season closures for pot gear and longline gear will coincide with the federal closures of the pot gear group and the less than 50 foot hook and line (<50' HAL) gear group in the adjacent federal CGOA, respectively.

Fishermen participating in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery must deliver their harvest within 24 hours of the closure and prior to participating in the parallel season. In addition, fishermen are reminded that they must possess a valid ADF&G PWS 2013 non-exclusive area groundfish registration in order to participate in the PWS parallel Pacific cod fishery

Participants using pot or longline gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries must have a functioning, NMFS approved, vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak_faqs.html. In addition, seabird avoidance measures (SAM) must be used in all longline fisheries for groundfish in state waters except the Inside District of PWS (<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm>).

Regulations protecting two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS remain in effect. Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of Seal Rocks (60° 09.78' N. lat., 146° 50.30' W. long.); and Wooded Island (Fish Island) (59° 52.90' N. lat., 147° 20.65' W. long.).

Bycatch, in aggregate, may not exceed 20% by weight of the directed groundfish species on board a vessel. Big skate may not be retained as bycatch (Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-06-13). Regulation 5 AAC 28.265 requires that all rockfish be retained and any rockfish in excess of the 10% bycatch allowance be reported as a bycatch overage on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the state. Retained lingcod must measure at least 35 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail and must be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact as evidence of gender.

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